

Second 'assassination' film readied

LOS ANGELES — A second made-for-tv film dealing with the events of November 1963 should be ready to go before the cameras in Dallas in late July. The three-hour-long "fact drama," bearing the working title of "Ruby and Oswald," is being produced by Alan Landsburg Productions for CBS TV. It has a projected airdate of late 1977.

Currently being filmed on location in Dallas and McKinney is "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," a fictional piece crafted by Robert E. Thompson, that will be seen as a four-hour tele-feature on ABC TV during the 1977-78 season. "Trial" is being produced by Charles Fries Productions.

Script for "Ruby and Oswald" — which could have a title change to "Four Days in Dallas" — is the first collaborative effort of veteran writer John McGreevy and his son, Michael. Paul Freeman is the producer and Mel Stuart is the director.

Executive producer Landsburg and Stuart, both veteran documentarians and filmmakers, are graduates of David L. Wolper Productions, one of television's most-respected independent documentary-makers. Landsburg said in an interview here that he feels "Ruby and Oswald" will be the definitive film piece on the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Both Mel and I have lived with this story since November 22, 1967," Landsburg explained. "Young Michael McGreevy, it turns out, has also spent years researching the details of the assassination. So it seemed to be a natural that he and his father collaborate on the effort."

Landsburg said that the major source of material for "Ruby and Oswald" is the Warren Commission Report. The film will reiterate the Warren Commission's findings that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in gunning down President Kennedy during his visit to Dallas, and that Dallas night club owner Jack Ruby acted independently in killing Oswald in the garage of the Dallas City Hall on Sunday morning, Nov. 24, 1963.

"I realize that there are still many who hold to a 'conspiracy theory,' but until some-



**BOB
BROCK**
on
broadcasting

one comes along with more concrete evidence of a conspiracy than has been offered to date, I think this film should lay the matter to rest. I think this one is for the record."

"Ruby and Oswald" will be a "dramatic triangulation," tracing the movements that brought the three principals to their rendezvous with history, according to Landsburg.

"There will not be one individual action detailed that cannot be verified or the use of a single fact that cannot be substantiated in 'Ruby and Oswald,'" Landsburg continued.

"Mel was on the scene in Dallas 13 years ago and filmed interviews with major participants in the drama. Those interviews, plus television news film, and the thousands of stories written at the time, give us a wealth of source material."

Some of this footage was used in a feature documentary produced by Landsburg, "Four Days in November." Landsburg also produced the film tribute to President Kennedy, "A Thousand Days," that was shown at the Democratic Party National Convention in 1964. Stuart directed one of the most-awarded TV documentaries of the past decade, "The Making of the President 1960," based on the Theodore White book which chronicled John F. Kennedy's successful bid for the Presidency.

John McGreevy's writing credits include the recent Peabody Award-winning "fact drama," "Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys." McGreevy also wrote the script for the tele-film based on an incident in the life of Aimee Semple McPherson, "The Disappearance of Aimee."

Landsburg noted that "Ruby and Oswald" is in the pre-production state and that casting should begin "in a couple of weeks." While actors will be used in principal roles, Landsburg said that no actor will be cast as

President Kennedy. Scenes of him will be edited from "actuality" film.

Landsburg said that no decision had been reached as to whether all or just a portion of "Ruby and Oswald" would be filmed in Dallas.

TV news notes

Sir Huw Wheldon, a British television pioneer and former head of BBC Television, has been named a special consultant to NBC TV.

Robert T. Howard, President of NBC TV in making the announcement of the addition of Wheldon, said he will serve as "what I think will be an important pair of eyes and ears overseas in search of programs, books, ideas, ... anything that might lend itself to good television for American audiences."

Wheldon was managing director of both BBC 1 and 2 for seven years. Before that he had been director of programs at BBC as well as head of documentary programs.

"Billion Dollar Bubble," a one-hour dramatization of one of the biggest corporate frauds in the history of American business — the \$2 billion insurance embezzlement involving a Los Angeles firm, the Equity Funding Corporation of America — will be presented on NBC-Ch. 5 at 9 p.m. on Aug. 31.

The special, made by BBC TV, focuses on five of the principals involved in the scandal, which broke into the open in April, 1973. At that time, it was disclosed that Equity's funding subsidiary, The Equity Funding Life Insurance Corp., had extensively manipulated computers to use 62,000 fictitious insurance policies as collateral in raising funds from outside insurance companies.

Sam Wanamaker will be seen as Stanley Goldblum, founder, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Equity Funding.

Magazine, the CBS News informational daytime series on subjects of particular interest to women, will be broadcast the first Thursday of every month beginning in October for a full six-month season. Previously, the critically-acclaimed program has been telecast only on a random basis.